

Label: "ENNIS FOIA"

Created by: (b) (6) doioig.gov

Total Messages in label:5 (4 conversations)

Created: 06-24-2019 at 11:19 AM

Conversation Contents

urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest

"DiPaolo, Nancy" <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>

From: "DiPaolo, Nancy" <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>
Sent: Mon Jun 10 2019 12:06:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gail Ennis <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>, (b) (6) ssa.gov
Subject: urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest

Gail,

I'm sorry to bother you up on the Hill, but social media has picked up on your appointment, and the Hill newspaper is asking "Wondering if Interior IG or WH has any comments on this thought/ apparent conflict of interest?" and "please ask if she has/ intends to recuse herself from any matters that involve her old client Wilmer Hale, or any issues/clients they lobby for?"

I've conferred with Bruce, and am wondering if you would approve my providing a quote from you stating,
"DOI OIG General Counsel is conducting a thorough ethics review that will ensure that I do not participate in any matter that would create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest. "

(b) (5)

thanks,
Nancy

Nancy K. DiPaolo
Director, External Affairs
Office of the Inspector General
Department of the Interior
202.208.4357
(c) (b) (6)

"Ennis, Gail S. Office of the Inspector General" <(b) (6)> ssa.gov>

From: "Ennis, Gail S. Office of the Inspector General"
<(b) (6)> ssa.gov>
Sent: Mon Jun 10 2019 16:29:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gail Ennis <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: DiPaolo, Nancy <(b) (6) doioig.gov>
Date: June 10, 2019 at 2:06:57 PM EDT
Subject: [EXTERNAL] urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest
To: Gail Ennis <(b) (6) doioig.gov>, Ennis, Gail S. Office of the Inspector General <(b) (6) ssa.gov>

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From: Gail Ennis <(b) (6) doioig.gov>
Sent: Mon Jun 10 2019 16:29:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6) doioig.gov
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ennis, Gail S. Office of the Inspector General" <(b) (6) ssa.gov>
Date: June 10, 2019 at 2:31:38 PM EDT
To: "DiPaolo, Nancy" <(b) (6) doioig.gov>, Gail Ennis <(b) (6) doioig.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] urgent - press quote re avoiding conflicts of interest

I agree with the statement as that is exactly what I intend to do.

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)

On June 10, 2019 at 2:06:57 PM EDT, DiPaolo, Nancy <(b) (6) doioig.gov> wrote:

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OIG in the news

"DiPaolo, Nancy" <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>

From: "DiPaolo, Nancy" <(b) (6)> doioig.gov>
Sent: Mon Jun 10 2019 11:55:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6) ALL_OIG_Employees <(b) (6)> @doioig.gov>
Subject: OIG in the news

[TheHill.com](https://www.thehill.com)

Trump appoints Social Security Administration watchdog to also oversee Interior

BY [MIRANDA GREEN](#) - 06/10/19 10:46 AM EDT THE HILL

[President Trump](#) has quietly appointed his Social Security Administration (SSA) inspector general to also oversee a much different agency: the Interior Department.

On May 28, Gail Ennis began her second job overseeing the Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG), a role she will keep for the foreseeable future, the OIG confirmed to The Hill.

The Trump administration is still [awaiting the confirmation](#) of Mark Greenblatt, the former assistant inspector general for investigations at the Commerce Department, to formally head the Interior's OIG office.

Ennis was sworn into the SSA role just five months ago, her first time serving as an inspector general. Her professional background is in securities litigation, working previously as a partner at the Washington, D.C.-based law firm WilmerHale, where she reportedly earned \$2 million a year.

At the SSA, Ennis has most recently led efforts to thwart scam Social Security phone calls, at the Interior department she will oversee investigations into Interior's newly appointed Secretary David Bernhardt's lobbying ties and two ongoing Justice Department investigations into former Interior Secretary [Ryan Zinke](#). One of those investigations has [reportedly](#) made it to the grand jury.

The appointment of Ennis to Interior was not formally announced by the White

House, however, the Interior Department's [website](#) was updated last week to reflect her new position.

Ennis replaces former acting Inspector General Mary Kendall, who retired from the office at the end of May. Kendall oversaw multiple ethics investigations into Zinke, including recommending a number of them to the Justice Department for further investigation. Those investigations reportedly played a heavy factor in Zinke's decision to leave the administration early this year.

Ennis is the second Trump political appointee whom the administration has attempted to put in the Interior OIG role.

Earlier this year, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary [Ben Carson](#) [announced](#) to staff that Assistant HUD Secretary Suzanne Israel Tufts would replace Kendall. Because Tufts had been previously confirmed by the Senate, she would not have to go through another confirmation process for the role.

However, following backlash to that announcement, the Interior Department later said the announcement was a misunderstanding and Carson reversed the move. Tufts [resigned](#) not long after.

"On May 28th, Social Security [Inspector General] Gail S. Ennis started at [Department of Interior] OIG as Acting Inspector General. Continuing with her responsibilities as SSA IG, Ms. Ennis will also lead our organization while Mark Greenblatt's nomination continues to progress in the Senate," an OIG spokesperson said in a statement to The Hill.

The White House referred comment to the Interior OIG. The Interior Department did not return a request for comment.

In addition to the ongoing investigations into Interior's current and former secretaries, the OIG is also [investigating](#) six high-ranking interior officials for ethics concerns.

This story has been updated 12:24 p.m.

Interior gets new acting IG

[Michael Doyle](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, June 10, 2019

The Trump administration has tapped the inspector general for the Social Security Administration to simultaneously serve as the Interior Department's acting chief watchdog while the department awaits Senate confirmation of its permanent nominee.

In an otherwise unheralded [posting](#) on its website, Interior's Office of Inspector General states that Gail Ennis has been appointed to the temporary Interior position.

"This appointment is in addition to her position as the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration," the notice states, adding that "Ms. Ennis will remain the Acting Inspector General until a permanent Inspector General is confirmed."



Gail Ennis. Social Security Administration

The White House officially designated her for the Interior position on May 23, and she showed up at the department on May 28.

The Senate confirmed Ennis as the Social Security Administration's IG in January. Her dual appointment to the acting Interior position was first [reported by The Hill](#).

Ennis graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1985 and Brooklyn Law School, and is a former partner in the WilmerHale law firm. She was part of the firm's securities litigation and enforcement practice and the bank regulation and enforcement practice.

"Ms. Ennis' practice focused on advising companies, boards of directors, audit committees, and special committees of large, multi-national corporations or financial institutions in connection with government and independent investigations related to the federal securities laws, as well as consumer protection laws," [her biography](#) states.

In her Senate testimony last year, Ennis recounted that she is "especially passionate" about protecting Social Security benefits for those persons in need.

"For the last several years, I cared for my husband as his health declined from the effects of dementia," Ennis testified. "I was thankful that I had the financial means to provide for his care but came to understand the enormous financial burden on families caring for sick relatives."

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last month approved veteran federal investigator Mark Lee Greenblatt as Interior's IG on a unanimous voice vote.

Last month, former Interior Deputy IG Mary Kendall left the agency for a similar post with Amtrak.

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